

## REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 7 and 8.

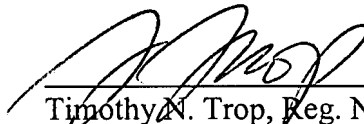
Claim 8 requires that after the received signal is modified to a maximum value, a time between the transmit signal and the receive signal is used to determine a length of the telephone loop and other loop characteristics. However, nothing in the office action suggests that the cited reference determines that the received signal has been modified to a maximum value.

Moreover, nothing in paragraphs 119 or 121 in the cited reference, cited in support thereof, teach such a thing. In the present application it is explained that the maximal value of the received signal is determined by determining whether a previous echo signal is greater than the present echo signal, in which case the echo signal has reached its maximal value. See paragraph 18, lines 12-20.

No such operation is anywhere suggested within the cited reference and, therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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